

Study Urged of Aide Of Federal Reserve On Press Criticism

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WASHINGTON, March 11 (UPI)—Representative Wright Patman, Democrat of Texas, asked the Federal Reserve Board today to investigate allegations that a high-level employee of the Federal Reserve had used his position to gather information to criticize the news media.

Mr. Patman said that Jack Anderson, the syndicated columnist had alleged that Reed J. Irvine has combined his duties at the Federal Reserve with his independent interest in an organization called Accuracy in Media, Inc.

Mr. Patman said that Mr. Irvine had allegedly used his office at the Federal Reserve, the nation's central bank, to obtain information from Federal agencies that was used by the media group.

"Of even greater seriousness, however, is the use of this information, obtained under false pretenses, to attempt to harass the press and hamper their reporting of news of major public interest," Mr. Patman said in a letter to the Federal Reserve Chairman, Arthur F. Burns.

Mr. Irvine and Federal Reserve officials could not be reached for comment.

J. R. Van Evera, executive secretary for Accuracy in Media, said that Mr. Irvine had been "meticulous" in separating his Federal Reserve duties from his operations with the group.

Mr. Van Evera said the information that Mr. Irvine had used to criticize news reporting was not classified.

Mr. Anderson reported in his column today that Mr. Irvine was a \$37,000 a year economist with the Federal Reserve. Mr. Anderson said: "Mr. Irvine, through Accuracy in Media, 'has attacked The New York Times, The Washington Post and other publications and TV documentaries. Ralph Nader and ourselves are under fire . . .'"